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(From the London Review)

A considerable portion of the book is devoted to the disputes; and, were sufficient space at our disposal, we should like to quote many passages which are here of wise, impartial criticism on American affairs. It is very difficult for a man to be impartial in speaking of the relations between North and South. So many important interests were involved in the struggle, and so many principles of vital importance were then put on their trial and tested, that no one who had any public feeling at all could escape inclining to the one side or the other. In such a protracted struggle, too, there were many (that not nearly so many as would

"A Political Survey" is a very satisfactory book. Its author seems to dwell in a certain white light of intelligence which is never coloured by prejudice or the fogs of traditional antagonism. Mr. Grant Duff is a man of clear vision, and of wide information, who possesses a graceful and incisive literary style. That his present volume should be an instructive and pleasant book is therefore not to be wondered at.

Ukrainian Documents

To get the materials for his calculation Professor Jevons cast his net as widely as possible. He distributed a circular letter and blank form to a number of bankers and other gentlemen, requesting them to take out one or two hundred sovereigns at random from those received in the ordinary course of business, and count the number of each year. He then got the figures of every real estate of population in the country, and from every variety of district—321 returns in all varying to 213 distinct towns and localities; and he received unexpected assistance in his plan. The gentlemen to whom he applied went beyond his requirement—the Governor of the Bank of Scotland procuring an enumeration of 48,647 coins at the various branches of the bank, and the general manager of the Bank of England procuring a complete return for his district. Altogether he received an enumeration of 90,474 sovereigns and 75,036 half-sovereigns, a total of 165,510 coins. The result is shown in an elaborate table, which we subjoin, stating on the data thus obtained the proportion of 100,000 sovereigns and half-sovereigns belonging to each year; but the principal conclusion for the present purpose is that of every 100,000 sovereigns now in circulation 48,671 sovereigns are found on an average to bear the date 1863 and 1864.* The proportion varies in different localities; but after drawing up many averages, he had found this to be near the truth. According to the plan of procedure this result brings us very near the end. The proportion of the whole coinage of sovereigns to that part of it bearing the date of 1863 and 1864, being as 100,000 is to 18,671, or as 50 is to 9 (51), gives the number of years that elapses that the circulating coinage of those years is, and multiply by 51, to find out the total amount of the circulation.

This last step is easily performed. The coinage of sovereigns of 1863-61 was £14,578,000, but of this amount £600,000, at the date of the circulation, were lying in bags as received from the Mint—had never passed into circulation at all. The quantity of 1863-64 sovereigns circulating cannot therefore

We need take very briefly the calculation of what the deficiency amounts to. Assuming that on the average all the deficiency on coins since 1850 is covered by the allowance for wear, it is found that the deficiency on the earlier sovereigns amounts to £307 in £100,000, or nearly 1 per cent. This would give a total deficiency to be made good of £200,000. The proportion of deficiency in half-sovereigns is greater. The average life of a half-sovereign as legal tender is only 7½ years; but taking 10 years as a safer figure it is found that this gives a proportion of 47 per cent. as light, or 5½ millions out of £12 million. The actual amount of the deficiency in coins which are not legal tender is £100,000. Altogether the recoinage necessary will be £200,000 in sovereigns and £3,700,000 in half-sovereigns, on which the loss will be as stated—£200,000 and £100,000 respectively. We thus obtain the following as the total probable cost of the recoinage:

**LONDON MONEY-LENDERS AND THEIR
DUPEs.**

Nobody can doubt either the extent or the reality of the evil here denounced. Not only all young gentlemen going to college, but all young officers joining the army, and all young civil servants on receiving their appointments, are tempted by voluntary offers of money from regular users on terms more or less attractive. . . .

It would be difficult, however, to make money-lending a punishable crime, or to enact that money-lenders should be debarred from the exercise of their privileges and the regulation of their terms of business. Some protection the law already accords to the inexperience of youth, but the best resource practically will be found to lie in the effects of notoriety itself. We believe, in fact, that much of the mischief has been done by the very publicity which has been given to the transactions. A communication from a money-lender is by no means so novel or impressive an overture as it was some years ago. It no longer reveals unsuspected mysteries of accommodation, or dazzles the recipient with any new insight into the resources of credit. The money-lender is now one but not out on that account the more dangerous. The competition in it is so considerable that advertising circulars follow one another as thickly as tailors' price-lists, and produce a similar indifference. They lie on your table by the side of the advertisements of the window as you drive away from the railway station. An undergraduate of average

GOLDEN YOUTH.

The chief cause of the popular belief in youth's being the golden season of life is found in the fact that it possesses a greater capacity for enjoyment, and is less affected by present or prospective troubles than any subsequent age. Yet, is not childhood superior to it in these respects? The pleasure which is extracted from tops or dolls is as intense as that derived from fine clothes or violets; the lollipop is as sweet as the mouth of childhood; the ruffles to those of older people. Moreover, if youth is seldom given to troubling itself with anticipating misfortune, childhood has no cares but those of the moment. The ignorance of the latter, too, is innocence, while that of the former is foolishness. If we had to award the preference to either, we should give it to the second; but there are other things in human nature which we think more valuable, and more to be desired, than the faculty of enjoying one's self. That keenness of nerve, even, in the susceptibility of youth to the most painful of life is supposed to consist, proceeds in most cases from ignorance or an unformed taste. Experience teaches us to discriminate between the good and bad things of the world; to tell a *coquette* from an *ingenue*, or a daub from a work of art; to appreciate the

A "CAUSE CELEBRE."

The murder was committed on the eighth Floral, year IV. (April 27, 1796). The Lyons mail, which left Paris at 5 p.m., was attacked near Melun, and the courier and postilion were assassinated. At 5 a.m. the next morning the magistrate of Melun examined the scene of the crime, where a spur, one of the buckles of which was fastened with a piece of thread, was picked up, as well as a sword with this inappropriate device, "l'homme et le cheval sont égaux." As there had been no traveller in the mail, but as he could nowhere be found, it was presumed that he had participated in the crime. During the inquiries which followed it was ascertained that four men on horseback had been seen the day before the murder in the neighbourhood of Melun, and that after the crime five men had been seen riding rapidly in the direction of Paris. There was no doubt that the fifth man was the traveller, who had mounted the horse of the dead postilion, and in fact, the postilion's horse was found wandering about in the dead end of a lane, where it was that four horses, greatly distressed, had been brought back to an hotelkeeper, called Mirez; and the police, on visiting the house of Couriol, who had hired them, found that he had just started for Châteaufort. A warrant was issued for his apprehension, and he was arrested on the 20th Floral. About a fifth of the property stolen from the mail was discovered in his possession. He was found to be an escaped convict, and was recognised as one of the four men who had been seen near Melun. Whilst the police were looking for Couriol's accomplices, and Couriol himself was undergoing examination, two women were seen summing up a witness to the judge that they had just seen in another court two of the four men who had dined and taken coffee at Montperon, near Melun, on the day of the murder. As the women insisted on this strange declaration, the judge ordered their apprehension, and Guesnot and Lesurques were arrested. In spite of their explanations they were committed for trial. Lesurques had served in the army and had risen to the grade of sergeant, which was the highest step a *roturier* could obtain; he had afterwards held a municipal appointment, and when he was arrested was in easy circumstances. He was confronted with the various witnesses, who all declared that they had seen the four horsemen seen on the Lyons road. Almost at the same moment, three more men were arrested, and on the 15th Thermidor, Couriol, Bernard, Richard, Guesnot, Bruer, and Lesurques appeared before the criminal tribunal of the Seine. The trial lasted four days. It was clearly proved that Couriol was present at the murder; that Bernard had found the horses and received part of the plunder; and that Richard had acted as receiver. Guesnot, Bruer, and Lesurques set up an alibi, which was admitted in the case of the two former, who could not be acquitted; but Lesurques' friends could not prove whether he had dined with them on the day of the murder or the day before.

Lesrueques, Couriol, and Bernard were sentenced to death, and Richard to twenty-four years imprisonment. The day after the verdict Couriol of his own accord declared Lesrueque innocent, and that the crime had been committed by himself, Dubosq, Vidal, an Italian called Roussi, and Durochat. He betrayed the addresses of his accomplices and related the details of everything which had taken place before and after the crime. Couriol even addressed a letter to the Directory declaring the innocence of Lesrueques; but all the efforts made to save him were fruitless, and he was executed on the 9th Brumaire with Couriol and Bernard. On the scaffold Couriol said, "I am guilty, but Lesrueques is innocent." A week after the execution a dangerous character who had several times been in chains was arrested near Lyons.

THE NEW INFANTRY EQUIPMENT.

This valise is made in the shape of a game-bag, and is carried on the loins, with supporting straps so arranged as to leave the chest and arms free, and causes as little inconvenience as possible to the wearer. One of the most sturdy cases are to be worn on the waist-belt, as required, and it is strongly argued that at no time is more knowledge to be gained than absolutely needed, the object sought being to leave the soldier as unincumbered as possible except when there is a necessity for weighing him." Officers and men unite in their praises of this equipment, and those who have worn it declare they would prefer to march fifteen miles with the new bag rather than five miles with the old knapsack. Sir John Garvock, by way of testing its merits thoroughly, bethought himself of making the experiment on his two sides-de-camp, and then sent them off on their way through Wales with orders to carry the valise on all occasions; and we learn from one of these officers, Lieutenant Clayton, that in climbing up Snowdon, and other steep mountains, he scarcely felt that he was carrying any burden at all. It is to be regretted that neither of these officers has afforded any information as to the amount of clothing they carried in their bags, and whether such clothing was sufficient for their wants, or whether they were compelled to leave their mountain reserves at Llanberis and other accessible points, in consequence of the importance to ascertain how far the valise is capable of containing the requirements for a campaign.

The report contains many suggestions for further improvements, and those proposed by General Simmons of the Royal Engineers, Sergeant-major Baker of the Grenadier Guard, Colonel Greer of the 68th, and Colonel Lambrick of the Royal Marines, have been adopted. The only outstanding least objectionable mode of carrying the equipment or soldier's kit is solved rather in the Columbus fashion, by Colonel de Horsey, who suggests that it need not be carried at all, except when wanted, and "in this the committee entirely concur, as they believe that the less a man is loaded the better for his health"—and we may also add the better for his efficiency. Acting on this principle, the committee have offered a suggestion as to whether a still further reduction in weight should be attached to the baggage, so as to reduce the burden to be borne by the man to the lowest degree.

It will be observed throughout the report that the committee are actuated by the desire of relieving the marching soldier from unnecessary burdens, and, taken solely from their point of view, the new equipment has every chance of success. But, before their suggestions can be adopted, the military authorities must ascertain the opinion of the transport department upon so important a subject. As it is, we believe that the Military Train at Aldershot is not sufficiently strong to carry the baggage and ammunition of the whole division were it suddenly ordered off on service; and if, in addition to these duties, the Train is directed to carry some thousands of squad-bags, it must be largely increased.

Putting aside the most important question of increased expenditure which this entails, it must be remembered that an augmentation to the numbers of the baggage waggon is a serious evil in a campaign. When advancing, the long lines of military impedimenta following the different corps d'armée may be kept under proper control, but when retiring this is far more difficult, and if the retrograde movement is a hurried one it is impossible to avoid confusion, and the baggage train may become a defeat. It is therefore a question requiring the most careful consideration, how far are we justified in relieving the soldier of his burden at the expense of overloading the Military Train?

HERON STRANGLED BY AN EEL.—The Rev. Mr. Sidney, rector of Goodenough, writing to the *Standard* on Saturday last, says that just at the back of his residence, a heron was found lying in articulo mortis on the bank of the trout stream which runs through this parish, with a fine eel twisted so tight round its neck as to cause strangulation. The eel having been speared through the head by the upper mandible of the heron's bill (about three-fourths of the whole length of the bill passing through), it was found impossible to cause strangulation. The eel round the neck and bill of its enemy in such a way as to bind the two together, and cause strangling by the neck of the heron being bent double. Neither the eel nor the heron was injured. The eel was sufficient proof in itself of their having actually destroyed each other as here related, and I was myself an eyewitness of their being found in the position above described.

James Rothchild has been requested to every clerk that has been in his service ten years a legacy of £100 per annum.

